AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following paragraph.

[0002] This invention was made with federal government support from the National Institutes of Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under Grant No. A129329 to the City of Hope. The United States government ~~may have~~ has certain rights in the invention.

Please replace paragraph [00035] with the following paragraph.

[00035] Before gene therapy, the anti-HIV-1 candidate constructs are effectively transduced into primary cells or quiescent stem cells. Candidate constructs can be subcloned into a vector, examples of which are described in co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 10/365,643, filed February 13, 2003, now U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0096843, currently pending, incorporated herein by reference. Candidate constructs are subcloned preferably into a lentiviral vector, and more preferably an HIV7 lentiviral vector. The HIV7 lentiviral vector contains the polypurine tract of HIV-1 for enhanced integration and the woodchuck heptatitis post-transcriptional regulatory element (WCRE) for enhancing RNA stability. The 5' LTR is replaced in the vectors with the CMV promoter that subsequently is eliminated on reverse transcription of the viral RNA. In the final construct, the Pol III cassette is inserted downstream of the polypurine tract and Rev response element (RRE) and immediately upstream of the CMV promoter in pHIV-7. The EGFP gene also can be inserted into the vector to provide a selection marker.